Underground cable

2331. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for last seven years BSNL has stopped work of underground cable;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the future plan of installing underground cable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) No, Sir. BSNL has not stopped work of laying of underground cable during last seven years. In fact around 17 Lakh Conductor Kilo Meter (LCKM) Poly Insulated Jelly Filled (PIJF) cable has been laid upto 30.9.2009 and 16000 route kms Optical Fiber (OF) cable has been laid up to 30.11.2009 during this year.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) About a total of 36 LCKM PIJF cable and 26500 route kms of cable is expected to be laid during this financial year.

Allotment of 2G Spectrum

2332. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the matter relating to the allotment of 2G Spectrum was referred to the Ministry of Law for taking legal opinion on allocation of 2G Spectrum on first-come-first served basis on the prices fixed in 2001;

(b) if so, the details of the opinion furnished by the Law Ministry thereon; and

(c) the action which was taken thereon and the names of the firms which were allotted spectrum alongwith the amount charged from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (b) No, Sir. The matter relating to allotment of 2G Spectrum was not referred to Ministry of Law for legal opinion.

However, after receipt of recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) dated 28.08.2007 recommending No Cap on number of access service providers in any Service Area and not suggesting any changes in the prevailing entry fee structure for award of UAS Licenses, large number of applications for Unified Access Service (UAS) License were received in Department of Telecommunications (DOT). In view of this, opinion of Ministry of Law and Justice was sought on four alternatives for award of UAS licenses to the applicants. Ministry of Law and Justice instead of giving their opinion on the options proposed by DOT opined that the